



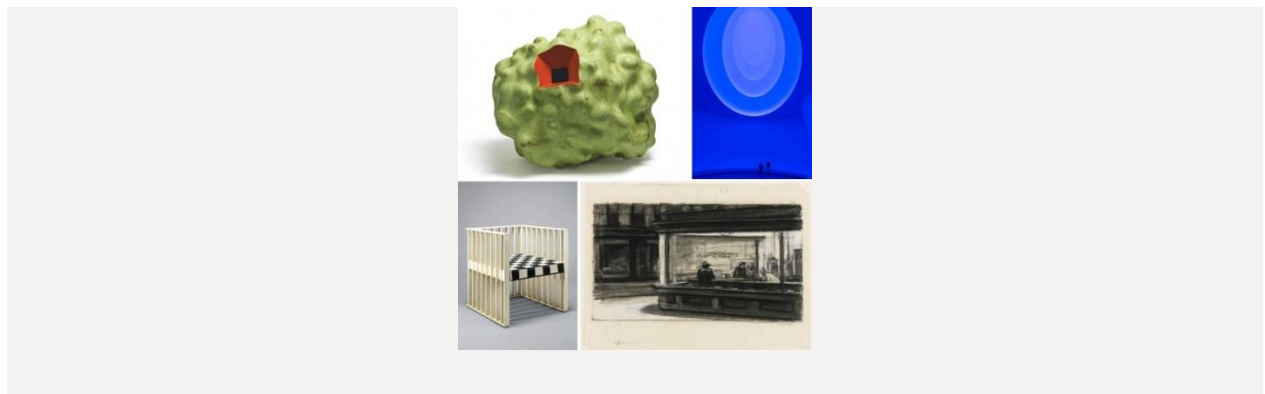
CULTURE

ART

Last-Chance Guide to the Summer's Best Art Shows in New York

by Ted Loos

Even though art galleries often close up shop in August, New York museums never take a break. There may not be the kind of big openings afoot as there will be in a month's time, but significant shows abound. And it's particularly good time to catch up on what you may have overlooked earlier in the year.





“Thomas Hirschhorn: Gramsci Monument” at the Forest Houses, the Bronx

It’s been a big year in the art world for honoring obscure Italians. First there was Massimiliano Gioni’s ode to the artist Marino Auriti, “The Encyclopedic Palace,” at the Venice Biennale. Now, a world away from Venice—the South Bronx, to be exact—comes Thomas Hirschhorn’s Gramsci Monument.

Antonio Gramsci, a Marxist philosopher and activist who spend much of his life in an Italian prison, is a source of inspiration for Hirschhorn, the Swiss artist who has been doing monuments to his favorite philosophers for more than a decade. He enlisted the residents of the Forest Houses project, where the monument is located, for help in building the piece, largely out of plywood and packing tape. Hirschhorn says the goal is to get locals and visitors from afar to think about the social justice issues to which Gramsci devoted his life—and certainly this singular monument is memorable, no matter what your politics are.

Tinton Avenue between 163rd and 165th Street, the Bronx; gramsci-monument.com

Pictured: Thomas Hirschhorn, preparations for Gramsci Monument, 2013

Photo: Romain Lopez/Courtesy of gramsci-monument.com

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